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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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Material Shortages in East German Concerns

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. A so-called "Isoperlon" enameled wire has been developed at the Leuna Werk (Walter Ulbricht Werk), Merseburg, in cooperation with the Hettstedt copper and brass works. Isoperlon is extraordinarily adapted for enameling aluminum wire, which then can be used in engine building in place of copper wire. The agent and the manufacturing process for employing the plastic, Perlon, as an enameled coating for wire were discovered by the chemist Dr. Dieter Sundhoff, production director of the Organic division of the Leuna Werk.
2. Further development and the strengthening of the plant radio at the Leuna Werk has been called for by the Soviet director (now called "inspector for liaison with Soviet economy"). It is to be patterned after the plant radios in the large Soviet industrial establishments.
3. The Free German Youth (FDJ) girls who marched with guns at the fourth FDJ Congress in Leipzig have been abused and even attacked by their co-workers in two of the Leuna Werk shops. Peace was only restored with the help of the Volkspolizei. Two of the women workers were arrested, because they declared they would not work with gun-carrying females (Flintenweiber). Some of the girls were subsequently transferred to other plants.
4. The Nagema food machinery plant at Erfurt¹ has had to stop operations because of shortage of materials. This plant is an important supplier of reparations materials to the Soviet Union. The head of the factory was arrested.
5. The Anteil-Werke at Eberswalde, which has been employing about 1,000 hands and which makes special cranes and hoisting equipment, has had to reduce operations by more than 60 percent on account of material shortages.
6. Strict economy of gasoline has been ordered at the Benzinwerk Böhlen because of the current gasoline shortage.

Comment: Nagma Maschinenfabrik, Erfurt, Thuringia(VVB Nagma).

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